

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending.

The Examiner indicated in the March 9, 2004 Office Action that the various references cited in the previously-filed Information Disclosure Statements have been considered, and the box was checked off indicating that the forms PTO-1449 were returned with that Office Action. However, the initialed forms were not attached to the March 9, 2004 Action, nor were they attached to the Action mailed December 2, 2004. It is requested that the initialed PTO-1449 forms be attached to the next Office Action.

The present Office Action repeats the requirement under 1.105, for a description of certain background information.

The known background systems are exemplified by the Togher et al. U.S. Patent 5,375,055, now assigned commonly with the present application, discussed in the background section (the international counterpart publication of the Togher et al. patent, WO 93/15467, was made of record in the IDS filed on March 29, 2001), and the Silverman patents, for example U.S. Patent 5,924,083, assigned to Reuters. The Togher system is currently incorporated into a system known in the industry as the EBS Spot Dealing System. The teachings of the Silverman patents are, to Applicants' knowledge, incorporated into the competing Reuters system, the Reuters Dealing 2000 system.

The EBS system based on the Togher disclosures has distributed functionality, but not the clique tree architecture or message flow routing rules of the present application. The Reuters system, to applicants' knowledge, has a single host computer and therefore could not have any clique architecture or routing rules, such as in the present invention.

When and if the functionality of the present application is incorporated into an EBS system, that system will also be known as the EBS Spot Dealing System.

During the drafting of the present application, the inventors made no mention of any particular documents or prior art that were relied upon by them. However, the application and claims were drafted taking into account the generally known background art, specifically the EBS and Reuters systems mentioned in the foregoing paragraphs.

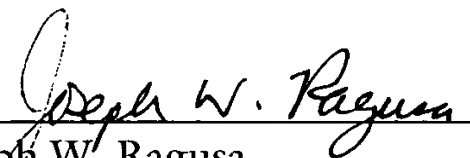
Applicants cannot submit any background information as to electronic trading systems actually teaching "canonical paths" or "cliques" because these concepts are part of the very invention to which the claims are directed and do not form part of the background knowledge.

The above is believed to address the outstanding issues in the December 2, 2004 Office Action. No other information is known or can be readily obtained. For this reason, this is a complete response to the Office Action. See 37 C.F.R § 1.105(a)(3)

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
Joseph W. Ragusa

Registration No.: 38,586
DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN &
OSHINSKY LLP
1177 Avenue of the Americas
41st Floor
New York, New York 10036-2714
(212) 835-1400
Attorney for Applicant